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APPLIANCES EXHIBITED AT THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF TRAINING-SCHOOLS FOR NURSES IN PITTSBURG, OCTOBER, 1903

By CAROLYN C. VAN BLARCOM

Assistant Superintendent, Johns Hopkins Hospital School for Nurses

THE nursing appliances described in the following pages are among those which were demonstrated at the tenth annual convention of the Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools, held in Pittsburg during the early part of October. They have in all but one instance been devised by nurses of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Training-School and are used in the wards of that hospital.

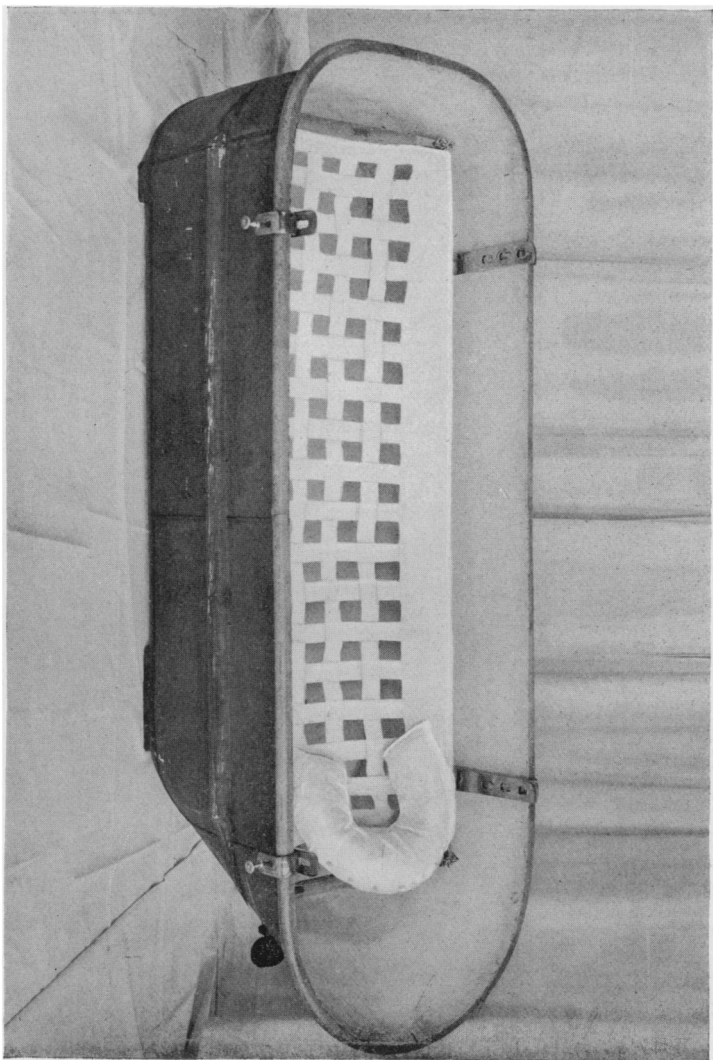
TYPHOID STRETCHER.

In giving typhoid baths the usual method employed for transporting patients from bed to tub and from tub to bed is one familiar to all of those who are occupied with the care of the sick, and it has been found that with one person supporting the head and shoulders and another at the feet a patient of average weight may be moved with comparative comfort. But sometimes disadvantages present themselves, particularly in the moving of very heavy or very weak and emaciated patients, and to obviate these difficulties, at least in a measure, the stretcher shown in the accompanying cut has been devised. The stretcher consists of a hammock made of stout webbing swung between two poles, running from head to foot, which are made of hickory or some other stout wood and finished at the ends with brass tips about three or four inches long, so cast as to provide a ring at each end of the poles. These are connected by means of cross-pieces similarly constructed the ends of which fit into the holes in the extremities of the long poles, thus forming a secure rectangular frame. The whole closely simulates a Bradford frame, and it was from this useful appliance that the idea was obtained. (Fig. 1.)

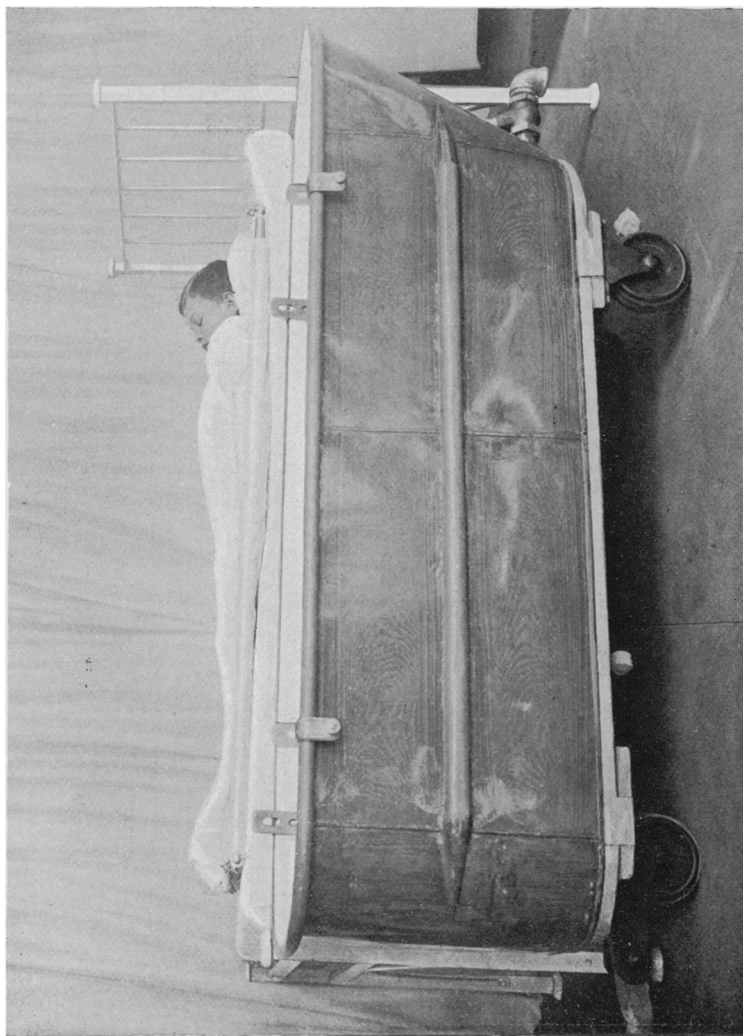
The hammock is slipped under the patient much as a fresh sheet would be, the poles are then slipped into the wide hems on each side, the cross-pieces fitted into place, and either a rubber ring or a horseshoe pillow is placed under the patient's head. (Fig. 2.)

The stretcher is then lifted into the tub to rest upon two pairs of hooks which depend from the sides of the tub, much as picture-hooks do from a moulding. (Fig. 3)

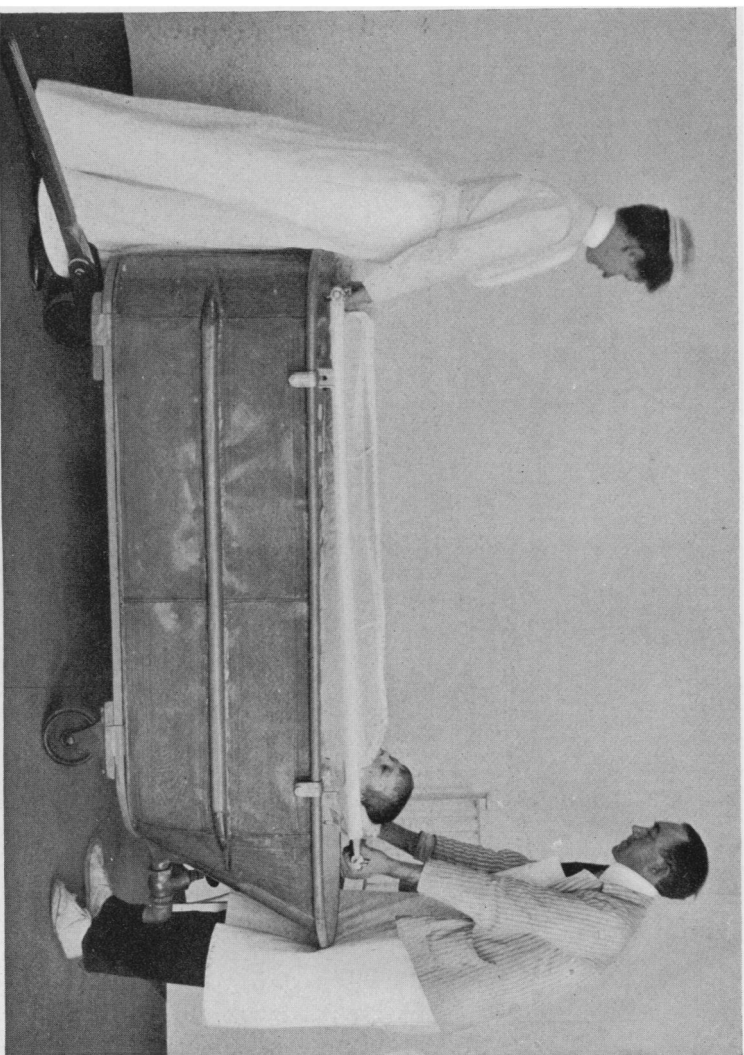
The hooks nearest the patient's head are preferably raised one or



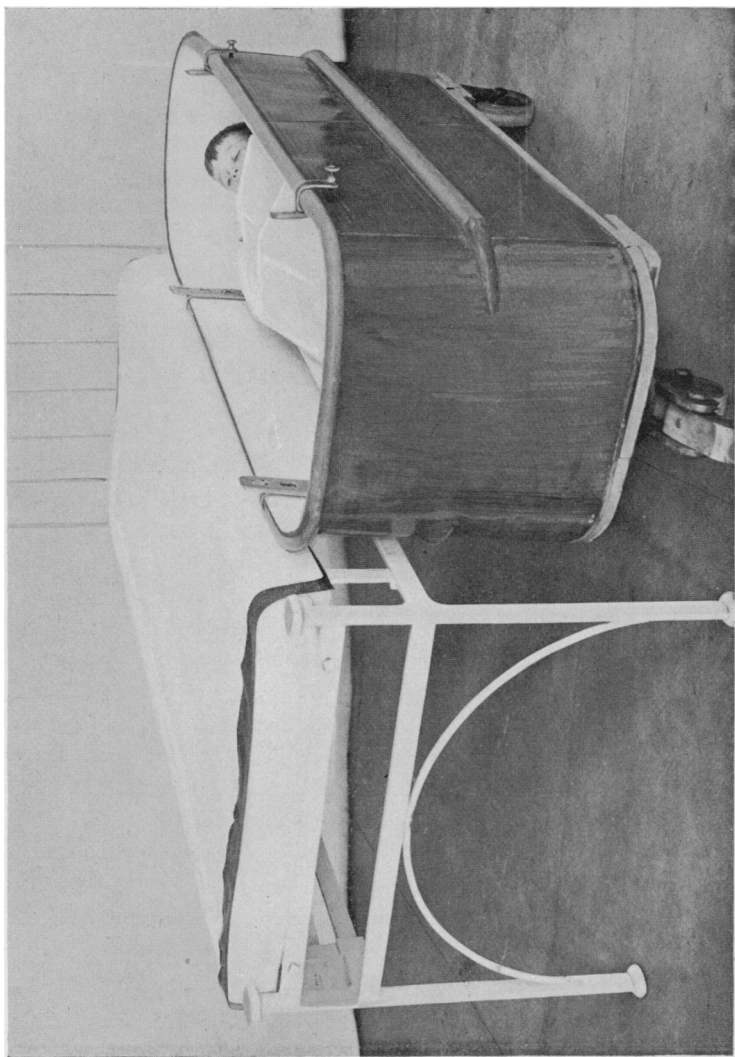
1. TYPHOID STRETCHER



2. TYPHOID STRETCHER ON TUB



3. TYPHOID STRETCHER—READY FOR IMMERSION



4. TYPHOID STRETCHER—PATIENT IMMERSSED

two notches above those at the foot, thus immersing the body and keeping the ears out of water. (Fig. 4.)

When the bath is finished the patient may be lifted upon the bed, which has been covered with a sheet and mackintosh in the usual manner, the poles slipped out, and the hammock removed with the wet sheets.

This stretcher has been used in one of the medical wards of the Johns Hopkins Hospital during the past year, and the features which would seem to commend it have borne the test of practical use, for it is found in many instances to add greatly to the patients' comfort and facilitate the work of the nurses. The advantages are perhaps greater in the lifting of very heavy patients, for upon the stretcher two nurses may without great effort lift such patients as would otherwise require the assistance of a third person, and are able to do it without the danger of jarring or scraping against the sides of the tub. And those who are too weak to respond to the familiar request that they "stiffen" themselves while being lifted, or patients who are so emaciated and sensitive as to make the firm gripping of shoulders and legs little less than painful, are certainly more comfortably moved in this manner. It may be said in general that the patients are moved with less effort on their part and with greater ease by the nurses than when employing the usual method; and there is an absence of that fear which is frequently evinced by patients who feel, and perhaps justly so, that inadequate strength is being used to lift them safely.

And it would seem that the stretcher might be comfortably adapted for use by patients in continuous baths, particularly those who once or twice a day must be lifted from the tub for irrigation or dressing. By adjusting the hooks upon which the stretcher rests a patient may be raised from the water, thus rendering dressings or other attentions very simple and without the expenditure of time and energy necessary for complete removal from the tub.

This appliance is the invention of Miss Nancy Ellicott, a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Hospital School for Nurses, Class of 1903.

(To be continued.)

